

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 02995 261307Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 AID-05 /082 W

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P R 261305Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9329

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02995

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: QUESTIONING OF GOWON

REF: LAGOS 2263

FCO IS NOT AWARE OF ANY DELEGATION THAT HAS COME OR PLANS TO COME TO THE UK TO INTERVIEW GOWON. MARK HEATH, HEAD OF THE WEST AFRICA DEPARTMENT, SAID IT WOULD BE CONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH A DELEGATION COULD SLIP INTO THE UK UNNOTICED BUT UNLIKELY THAT THE FMG WOULD WANT TO BE SO SURREPTITIOUS. HEATH WAS NEVERTHELESS INTERESTED IN THE REPORT. HE SAID HMG HAD RECEIVED "BROAD HINTS" FROM NIGERIANS THAT INTERNAL PRESSURES MIGHT BUILD TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT THE FMG WOULD BE FORCED TO REQUEST GOWON'S EXTRADITION. HEATH HOPES THAT COOLER TEMPER WILL PREVAIL IN LAGOS BUT SPECULATED THAT FMG LEADERS HAD AQUITTED THEMSELVES SO POORLY DURING THE ATTEMPTED COUP THAT THE URGE TO POINT ACCUSATORY FINGERS AT THE UK, THE US, AND GOWON IS ALMOST IRRESISTIBLE.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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